



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, SACRAMENTO  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
1325 J STREET - 7 PM 1:32  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814-2922

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July 6, 2005

Regulatory Branch (200500655)

Rhonda Reed  
California Bay Delta Authority  
Ecosystem Restoration Program  
650 Capitol Mail, 5th Floor  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Ms. Reed:

I am responding to the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Sacramento River Chico Landing Subreach Habitat Restoration Project. The overall project location occurs between river mile 240 and river mile 164. The Nature Conservancy is proposing to restore and enhance native riparian habitat on three project sites within the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge, which is owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Corps of Engineers' jurisdiction within the study area is under the authority of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbor Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States. Waters of the United States include, but are not limited to, rivers, perennial or intermittent streams, lakes, ponds, wetlands, vernal pools, marshes, wet meadows, and seeps. Project features that result in the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States will require Department of the Army authorization prior to starting work.

To ascertain the extent of waters on the project site, the applicant should prepare a wetland delineation, in accordance with the "Minimum Standards for Acceptance of Preliminary Wetland Delineations", under "Jurisdiction" on our website at the address below, and submit it to this office for verification.

The range of alternatives considered in an EIR should include alternatives that avoid impacts to wetlands or other waters of the United States. Every effort should be made to avoid project features which require the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States. In the event it can be clearly demonstrated there are no practicable alternatives to filling waters of the United States, mitigation plans should be developed to compensate for the unavoidable losses resulting from project implementation.

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Please refer to identification number 200500655 in any correspondence concerning this project. If you have any questions, please contact Laura Whitney at our Sacramento Valley Office, 1325 J Street, Room 1480, Sacramento, California 95814-2922, email *Laura.A.Whitney@usace.army.mil*, or telephone 916-557-7455. You may also use our website: *www.spk.usace.army.mil/regulatory.html*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Whitney", written in a cursive style.

Laura Whitney  
Project Manager

Enclosures



U S Army Corps of  
Engineers  
Sacramento District

## Nationwide Permit Summary

33 CFR Part 330; Issuance of Nationwide  
Permits – January 15, 2002, including  
Correction – February 13, 2002

**27. Stream and Wetland Restoration Activities.** Activities in waters of the US associated with the restoration of former waters, the enhancement of degraded tidal and non-tidal wetlands and riparian areas, the creation of tidal and non-tidal wetlands and riparian areas, and the restoration and enhancement of non-tidal streams and non-tidal open water areas as follows:

(a) The activity is conducted on:

(1) Non-Federal public lands and private lands, in accordance with the terms and conditions of a binding wetland enhancement, restoration, or creation agreement between the landowner and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) or the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the National Marine Fisheries Service, the National Ocean Service, or voluntary wetland restoration, enhancement, and creation actions documented by the NRCS pursuant to NRCS regulations; or

(2) Reclaimed surface coal mine lands, in accordance with a Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act permit issued by the OSM or the applicable state agency (the future reversion does not apply to streams or wetlands created, restored, or enhanced as mitigation for the mining impacts, nor naturally due to hydrologic or topographic features, nor for a mitigation bank); or

(3) Any other public, private or tribal lands;

(b) *Notification:* For activities on any public or private land that are not described by paragraphs (a)(1) or (a)(2) above, the permittee must notify the District Engineer in accordance with General Condition 13; and

(c) Planting of only native species should occur on the site.

Activities authorized by this NWP include, to the extent that a Corps permit is required, but are not limited to: the removal of accumulated sediments; the installation, removal, and maintenance of small water control structures, dikes, and berms; the installation of current deflectors; the enhancement, restoration, or creation of riffle and pool stream structure; the placement of in-stream habitat structures; modifications of the stream bed and/or banks to restore or create stream meanders; the backfilling of artificial channels and drainage ditches; the removal of existing drainage structures; the construction of small nesting islands; the construction of open water areas; the construction of oyster habitat over unvegetated bottom in tidal waters; activities needed to reestablish vegetation, including

plowing or discing for seed bed preparation and the planting of appropriate wetland species; mechanized land clearing to remove non-native invasive, exotic or nuisance vegetation; and other related activities.

This NWP does not authorize the conversion of a stream to another aquatic use, such as the creation of an impoundment for waterfowl habitat. This NWP does not authorize stream channelization. This NWP does not authorize the conversion of natural wetlands to another aquatic use, such as creation of waterfowl impoundments where a forested wetland previously existed. However, this NWP authorizes the relocation of non-tidal waters, including non-tidal wetlands, on the project site provided there are net gains in aquatic resource functions and values. For example, this NWP may authorize the creation of an open water impoundment in a non-tidal emergent wetland, provided the non-tidal emergent wetland is replaced by creating that wetland type on the project site. This NWP does not authorize the relocation of tidal waters or the conversion of tidal waters, including tidal wetlands, to other aquatic uses, such as the conversion of tidal wetlands into open water impoundments.

*Reversion.* For enhancement, restoration, and creation projects conducted under paragraphs (a)(3), this NWP does not authorize any future discharge of dredged or fill material associated with the reversion of the area to its prior condition. In such cases a separate permit would be required for any reversion. For restoration, enhancement, and creation projects conducted under paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2), this NWP also authorizes any future discharge of dredged or fill material associated with the reversion of the area to its documented prior condition and use (i.e., prior to the restoration, enhancement, or creation activities). The reversion must occur within five years after expiration of a limited term wetland restoration or creation agreement or permit, even if the discharge occurs after this NWP expires. This NWP also authorizes the reversion of wetlands that were restored, enhanced, or created on prior-converted cropland that has not been abandoned, in accordance with a binding agreement between the landowner and NRCS or FWS (even though the restoration, enhancement, or creation activity did not require a Section 404 permit). The five-year reversion limit does not apply to agreements without time limits reached under paragraph (a)(1). The prior condition will be documented in the original agreement or permit, and the determination of return to prior conditions will be made by the Federal agency or appropriate state agency executing the agreement or permit. Before any reversion activity the permittee or the appropriate Federal or state agency must notify the District Engineer and include the documentation of the prior condition. Once an area has reverted to its prior physical condition, it will be subject to whatever the Corps Regulatory requirements will be at that future date. (Sections 10 and 404)

**Note:** Compensatory mitigation is not required for activities authorized by this NWP, provided the authorized work results in a net increase in aquatic resource functions and values in the project area. This NWP can be used to authorize compensatory mitigation projects, including mitigation banks, provided the permittee notifies the District Engineer in accordance with General Condition 13, and the project includes compensatory mitigation for impacts to waters of the US caused by the authorized work. However, this NWP does not authorize the reversion of an area used for a compensatory mitigation project to its prior condition. NWP 27 can be used to authorize impacts at a mitigation bank, but only in circumstances where it has been approved under the Interagency Federal Mitigation Bank Guidelines.

**A. General Conditions.** The following general conditions must be followed in order for any authorization by an NWP to be valid:

- ☐ **1. Navigation.** No activity may cause more than a minimal adverse effect on navigation.
- ☐ **2. Proper Maintenance.** Any structure or fill authorized shall be properly maintained, including maintenance to ensure public safety.
- ☐ **3. Soil Erosion and Sediment Controls.** Appropriate soil erosion and sediment controls must be used and maintained in effective operating condition during construction, and all exposed soil and other fills, as well as any work below the ordinary high water mark or high tide line, must be permanently stabilized at the earliest practicable date. Permittees are encouraged to perform work within waters of the United States during periods of low-flow or no-flow.
- ☐ **4. Aquatic Life Movements.** No activity may substantially disrupt the necessary life-cycle movements of those species of aquatic life indigenous to the waterbody, including those species that normally migrate through the area, unless the activity's primary purpose is to impound water. Culverts placed in streams must be installed to maintain low flow conditions.
- ☐ **5. Equipment.** Heavy equipment working in wetlands must be placed on mats, or other measures must be taken to minimize soil disturbance.
- ☐ **6. Regional and Case-By-Case Conditions.** The activity must comply with any regional conditions that may have been added by the Division Engineer (see 33 CFR 330.4(e)) and with any case specific conditions added by the Corps or by the state or tribe in its Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Coastal Zone Management Act consistency determination.

☐ **7. Wild and Scenic Rivers.** No activity may occur in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System; or in a river officially designated by Congress as a "study river" for possible inclusion in the system, while the river is in an official study status; unless the appropriate Federal agency, with direct management responsibility for such river, has determined in writing that the proposed activity will not adversely affect the Wild and Scenic River designation, or study status. Information on Wild and Scenic Rivers may be obtained from the appropriate Federal land management agency in the area (e.g., National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

☐ **8. Tribal Rights.** No activity or its operation may impair reserved tribal rights, including, but not limited to, reserved water rights and treaty fishing and hunting rights.

☐ **9. Water Quality.**

☐ (a) In certain states and tribal lands an individual 401 Water Quality Certification must be obtained or waived (See 33 CFR 330.4(c)).

☐ (b) For NWPs 12, 14, 17, 18, 32, 39, 40, 42, 43, and 44, where the state or tribal 401 certification (either generically or individually) does not require or approve water quality management measures, the permittee must provide water quality management measures that will ensure that the authorized work does not result in more than minimal degradation of water quality (or the Corps determines that compliance with state or local standards, where applicable, will ensure no more than minimal adverse effect on water quality). An important component of water quality management includes stormwater management that minimizes degradation of the downstream aquatic system, including water quality (refer to General Condition 21 for stormwater management requirements). Another important component of water quality management is the establishment and maintenance of vegetated buffers next to open waters, including streams (refer to General Condition 19 for vegetated buffer requirements for the NWPs).

This condition is only applicable to projects that have the potential to affect water quality. While appropriate measures must be taken, in most cases it is not necessary to conduct detailed studies to identify such measures or to require monitoring.

☐ **10. Coastal Zone Management.** In certain states, an individual state coastal zone management consistency concurrence must be obtained or waived (see 33 CFR 330.4(d)).

☐ **11. Endangered Species.**

☐ (a) No activity is authorized under any NWP which is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a threatened or endangered species or a species proposed for such designation, as identified under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), or which will destroy or adversely modify the critical habitat of such species. Non-federal permittees shall notify the District Engineer if any listed species or designated critical habitat might be affected or is in the vicinity of the project, or is located in the designated critical habitat and shall not begin work on the activity until notified by the District Engineer that the requirements of the ESA have been satisfied and that the activity is authorized. For activities that may affect Federally-listed endangered or threatened species or designated critical habitat, the notification must include the name(s) of the endangered or threatened species that may be affected by the proposed work or that utilize the designated critical habitat that may be affected by the proposed work. As a result of formal or informal consultation with the FWS or NMFS the District Engineer may add species-specific regional endangered species conditions to the NWPs.

☐ (b) Authorization of an activity by a NWP does not authorize the "take" of a threatened or endangered species as defined under the ESA. In the absence of separate authorization (e.g., an ESA Section 10 Permit, a Biological Opinion with "incidental take" provisions, etc.) from the USFWS or the NMFS, both lethal and non-lethal "takes" of protected species are in violation of the ESA. Information on the location of threatened and endangered species and their critical habitat can be obtained directly from the offices of the USFWS and NMFS or their world wide web pages at <http://www.fws.gov/r9endspp/endspp.html> and [http://www.nfms.noaa.gov/prot\\_res/overview/es.html](http://www.nfms.noaa.gov/prot_res/overview/es.html) respectively.

☐ **12. Historic Properties.** No activity which may affect historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places is authorized, until the District Engineer has complied with the provisions of 33 CFR Part 325, Appendix C. The prospective permittee must notify the District Engineer if the authorized activity may affect any historic properties listed, determined to be eligible, or which the prospective permittee has reason to believe may be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and shall not begin the activity until notified by the District Engineer that the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act have been satisfied and that the activity is authorized. Information on the location and existence of historic resources can be obtained from the State Historic Preservation Office and the National Register of Historic Places (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)). For activities that may affect historic properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places, the notification must state which historic property may be affected by the proposed work or include a vicinity map indicating the location of the historic property.

☐ **13. Notification.**

☐ (a) Timing; where required by the terms of the NWP, the prospective permittee must notify the District Engineer with a preconstruction notification (PCN) as early as possible. The District Engineer must determine if the notification is complete within 30 days of the date of receipt and can request additional information necessary to make the PCN complete only once. However, if the prospective permittee does not provide all of the requested information, then the District Engineer will notify the prospective permittee that the notification is still incomplete and the PCN review process will not commence until all of the requested information has been received by the District Engineer. The prospective permittee shall not begin the activity:

☐ (1) Until notified in writing by the District Engineer that the activity may proceed under the NWP with any special conditions imposed by the District or Division Engineer; or

☐ (2) If notified in writing by the District or Division Engineer that an Individual Permit is required; or

☐ (3) Unless 45 days have passed from the District Engineer's receipt of the complete notification and the prospective permittee has not received written notice from the District or Division Engineer. Subsequently, the permittee's right to proceed under the NWP may be modified, suspended, or revoked only in accordance with the procedure set forth in 33 CFR 330.5(d)(2).

☐ (b) Contents of Notification: The notification must be in writing and include the following information:

☐ (1) Name, address and telephone numbers of the prospective permittee;

☐ (2) Location of the proposed project;

☐ (3) Brief description of the proposed project; the project's purpose; direct and indirect adverse environmental effects the project would cause; any other NWP(s), Regional General Permit(s), or Individual Permit(s) used or intended to be used to authorize any part of the proposed project or any related activity. Sketches should be provided when necessary to show that the activity complies with the terms of the NWP (Sketches usually clarify the project and when provided result in a quicker decision.);

☐ (4) For NWPs 7, 12, 14, 18, 21, 34, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, and 43, the PCN must also include a delineation of affected special aquatic sites, including wetlands, vegetated shallows (e.g., submerged aquatic vegetation, seagrass beds), and riffle and pool complexes (see paragraph 13(f));

- ☐ (5) For NWP 7 (Outfall Structures and Maintenance), the PCN must include information regarding the original design capacities and configurations of those areas of the facility where maintenance dredging or excavation is proposed;
- ☐ (6) For NWP 14 (Linear Transportation Projects), The PCN must include a compensatory mitigation proposal to offset permanent losses of waters of the US and a statement describing how temporary losses of waters of the US will be minimized to the maximum extent practicable;
- ☐ (7) For NWP 21 (Surface Coal Mining Activities), the PCN must include an Office of Surface Mining (OSM) or state-approved mitigation plan, if applicable. To be authorized by this NWP, the District Engineer must determine that the activity complies with the terms and conditions of the NWP and that the adverse environmental effects are minimal both individually and cumulatively and must notify the project sponsor of this determination in writing;
- ☐ (8) For NWP 27 (Stream and Wetland Restoration Activities), the PCN must include documentation of the prior condition of the site that will be reverted by the permittee;
- ☐ (9) For NWP 29 (Single-Family Housing), the PCN must also include:
  - ☐ (i) Any past use of this NWP by the Individual Permittee and/or the permittee's spouse;
  - ☐ (ii) A statement that the single-family housing activity is for a personal residence of the permittee;
  - ☐ (iii) A description of the entire parcel, including its size, and a delineation of wetlands. For the purpose of this NWP, parcels of land measuring ¼-acre or less will not require a formal on-site delineation. However, the applicant shall provide an indication of where the wetlands are and the amount of wetlands that exists on the property. For parcels greater than ¼-acre in size, formal wetland delineation must be prepared in accordance with the current method required by the Corps. (See paragraph 13(f));
  - ☐ (iv) A written description of all land (including, if available, legal descriptions) owned by the prospective permittee and/or the prospective permittee's spouse, within a one mile radius of the parcel, in any form of ownership (including any land owned as a partner, corporation, joint tenant, co-tenant, or as a tenant-by-the-entirety) and any land on which a purchase and sale agreement or other contract for sale or purchase has been executed;
- ☐ (10) For NWP 31 (Maintenance of Existing Flood Control Facilities), the prospective permittee must either notify the District Engineer with a PCN prior to each maintenance activity or submit a five year (or less) maintenance plan. In addition, the PCN must include all of the following:
  - ☐ (i) Sufficient baseline information identifying the approved channel depths and configurations and existing facilities. Minor deviations are authorized, provided the approved flood control protection or drainage is not increased;
  - ☐ (ii) A delineation of any affected special aquatic sites, including wetlands; and,
  - ☐ (iii) Location of the dredged material disposal site;
- ☐ (11) For NWP 33 (Temporary Construction, Access, and Dewatering), the PCN must also include a restoration plan of reasonable measures to avoid and minimize adverse effects to aquatic resources;
- ☐ (12) For NWPs 39, 43 and 44, the PCN must also include a written statement to the District Engineer explaining how avoidance and minimization for losses of waters of the US were achieved on the project site;
- ☐ (13) For NWP 39 and NWP 42, the PCN must include a compensatory mitigation proposal to offset losses of waters of the US or justification explaining why compensatory mitigation should not be required. For discharges that cause the loss of greater than 300 linear feet of an intermittent stream bed, to be authorized, the District Engineer must determine that the activity complies with the other terms and conditions of the NWP, determine adverse environmental effects are minimal both individually and cumulatively, and waive the limitation on stream impacts in writing before the permittee may proceed;
- ☐ (14) For NWP 40 (Agricultural Activities), the PCN must include a compensatory mitigation proposal to offset losses of waters of the US. This NWP does not authorize the relocation of greater than 300 linear-feet of existing serviceable drainage ditches constructed in non-tidal streams unless, for drainage ditches constructed in intermittent non-tidal streams, the District Engineer waives this criterion in writing, and the District Engineer has determined that the project complies with all terms and conditions of this NWP, and that any adverse impacts of the project on the aquatic environment are minimal, both individually and cumulatively;

☐ (15) For NWP 43 (Stormwater Management Facilities), the PCN must include, for the construction of new stormwater management facilities, a maintenance plan (in accordance with state and local requirements, if applicable) and a compensatory mitigation proposal to offset losses of waters of the US. For discharges that cause the loss of greater than 300 linear feet of an intermittent stream bed, to be authorized, the District Engineer must determine that the activity complies with the other terms and conditions of the NWP, determine adverse environmental effects are minimal both individually and cumulatively, and waive the limitation on stream impacts in writing before the permittee may proceed;

☐ (16) For NWP 44 (Mining Activities), the PCN must include a description of all waters of the US adversely affected by the project, a description of measures taken to minimize adverse effects to waters of the US, a description of measures taken to comply with the criteria of the NWP, and a reclamation plan (for all aggregate mining activities in isolated waters and non-tidal wetlands adjacent to headwaters and any hard rock/mineral mining activities);

☐ (17) For activities that may adversely affect Federally-listed endangered or threatened species, the PCN must include the name(s) of those endangered or threatened species that may be affected by the proposed work or utilize the designated critical habitat that may be affected by the proposed work; and

☐ (18) For activities that may affect historic properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places, the PCN must state which historic property may be affected by the proposed work or include a vicinity map indicating the location of the historic property.

☐ (c) Form of Notification: The standard Individual Permit application form (Form ENG 4345) may be used as the notification but must clearly indicate that it is a PCN and must include all of the information required in (b) (1)-(18) of General Condition 13. A letter containing the requisite information may also be used.

☐ (d) District Engineer's Decision: In reviewing the PCN for the proposed activity, the District Engineer will determine whether the activity authorized by the NWP will result in more than minimal individual or cumulative adverse environmental effects or may be contrary to the public interest. The prospective permittee may submit a proposed mitigation plan with the PCN to expedite the process. The District Engineer will consider any proposed compensatory mitigation the applicant has included in the proposal in determining whether the net adverse environmental effects to the aquatic environment of the proposed work are minimal. If the District Engineer determines that the activity complies with the terms and conditions of the NWP and that the adverse effects on the aquatic environment are minimal, after considering mitigation, the District Engineer will notify the permittee

and include any conditions the District Engineer deems necessary. The District Engineer must approve any compensatory mitigation proposal before the permittee commences work. If the prospective permittee is required to submit a compensatory mitigation proposal with the PCN, the proposal may be either conceptual or detailed. If the prospective permittee elects to submit a compensatory mitigation plan with the PCN, the District Engineer will expeditiously review the proposed compensatory mitigation plan. The District Engineer must review the plan within 45 days of receiving a complete PCN and determine whether the conceptual or specific proposed mitigation would ensure no more than minimal adverse effects on the aquatic environment. If the net adverse effects of the project on the aquatic environment (after consideration of the compensatory mitigation proposal) are determined by the District Engineer to be minimal, the District Engineer will provide a timely written response to the applicant. The response will state that the project can proceed under the terms and conditions of the NWP.

☐ If the District Engineer determines that the adverse effects of the proposed work are more than minimal, then the District Engineer will notify the applicant either:

☐ (1) that the project does not qualify for authorization under the NWP and instruct the applicant on the procedures to seek authorization under an Individual Permit;

☐ (2) that the project is authorized under the NWP subject to the applicant's submission of a mitigation proposal that would reduce the adverse effects on the aquatic environment to the minimal level; or

☐ (3) that the project is authorized under the NWP with specific modifications or conditions. Where the District Engineer determines that mitigation is required to ensure no more than minimal adverse effects occur to the aquatic environment, the activity will be authorized within the 45-day PCN period. The authorization will include the necessary conceptual or specific mitigation or a requirement that the applicant submit a mitigation proposal that would reduce the adverse effects on the aquatic environment to the minimal level. When conceptual mitigation is included, or a mitigation plan is required under item (2) above, no work in waters of the US will occur until the District Engineer has approved a specific mitigation plan.

☐ (e) Agency Coordination: The District Engineer will consider any comments from Federal and state agencies concerning the proposed activity's compliance with the terms and conditions of the NWPs and the need for mitigation to reduce the project's adverse environmental effects to a minimal level.

- ☐ For activities requiring notification to the District Engineer that result in the loss of greater than ½-acre of waters of the US, the District Engineer will provide immediately (e.g., via facsimile transmission, overnight mail, or other expeditious manner) a copy to the appropriate Federal or state offices (USFWS, state natural resource or water quality agency, EPA, State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), and, if appropriate, the NMFS). With the exception of NWP 37, these agencies will then have 10 calendar days from the date the material is transmitted to telephone or fax the District Engineer notice that they intend to provide substantive, site-specific comments. If so contacted by an agency, the District Engineer will wait an additional 15 calendar days before making a decision on the notification. The District Engineer will fully consider agency comments received within the specified time frame, but will provide no response to the resource agency, except as provided below. The District Engineer will indicate in the administrative record associated with each notification that the resource agencies' concerns were considered. As required by Section 305(b)(4)(B) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the District Engineer will provide a response to NMFS within 30 days of receipt of any Essential Fish Habitat conservation recommendations. Applicants are encouraged to provide the Corps multiple copies of notifications to expedite agency notification.
- ☐ (f) **Wetland Delineations:** Wetland delineations must be prepared in accordance with the current method required by the Corps (For NWP 29 see paragraph (b)(9)(iii) for parcels less than ¼-acre in size). The permittee may ask the Corps to delineate the special aquatic site. There may be some delay if the Corps does the delineation. Furthermore, the 45-day period will not start until the wetland delineation has been completed and submitted to the Corps, where appropriate.
- ☐ **14. Compliance Certification.** Every permittee who has received NWP verification from the Corps will submit a signed certification regarding the completed work and any required mitigation. The certification will be forwarded by the Corps with the authorization letter and will include:
- ☐ (a) A statement that the authorized work was done in accordance with the Corps authorization, including any general or specific conditions;
- ☐ (b) A statement that any required mitigation was completed in accordance with the permit conditions; and (c) The signature of the permittee certifying the completion of the work and mitigation.

- ☐ **15. Use of Multiple Nationwide Permits.** The use of more than one NWP for a single and complete project is prohibited, except when the acreage loss of waters of the US authorized by the NWPs does not exceed the acreage limit of the NWP with the highest specified acreage limit (e.g. if a road crossing over tidal waters is constructed under NWP 14, with associated bank stabilization authorized by NWP 13, the maximum acreage loss of waters of the US for the total project cannot exceed 1/3-acre).
- ☐ **16. Water Supply Intakes.** No activity, including structures and work in navigable waters of the US or discharges of dredged or fill material, may occur in the proximity of a public water supply intake except where the activity is for repair of the public water supply intake structures or adjacent bank stabilization.
- ☐ **17. Shellfish Beds.** No activity, including structures and work in navigable waters of the US or discharges of dredged or fill material, may occur in areas of concentrated shellfish populations, unless the activity is directly related to a shellfish harvesting activity authorized by NWP 4.
- ☐ **18. Suitable Material.** No activity, including structures and work in navigable waters of the US or discharges of dredged or fill material, may consist of unsuitable material (e.g., trash, debris, car bodies, asphalt, etc.) and material used for construction or discharged must be free from toxic pollutants in toxic amounts (see Section 307 of the CWA).
- ☐ **19. Mitigation.** The District Engineer will consider the factors discussed below when determining the acceptability of appropriate and practicable mitigation necessary to offset adverse effects on the aquatic environment that are more than minimal.
- ☐ (a) The project must be designed and constructed to avoid and minimize adverse effects to waters of the US to the maximum extent practicable at the project site (i.e., on site).
- ☐ (b) Mitigation in all its forms (avoiding, minimizing, rectifying, reducing or compensating) will be required to the extent necessary to ensure that the adverse effects to the aquatic environment are minimal.
- ☐ (c) Compensatory mitigation at a minimum one-for-one ratio will be required for all wetland impacts requiring a PCN, unless the District Engineer determines in writing that some other form of mitigation would be more environmentally appropriate and provides a project-specific waiver of this requirement. Consistent with National policy, the District Engineer will establish a preference for restoration of wetlands as compensatory mitigation, with preservation used only in exceptional circumstances.



☐ (d) Compensatory mitigation (i.e., replacement or substitution of aquatic resources for those impacted) will not be used to increase the acreage losses allowed by the acreage limits of some of the NWP. For example, ¼-acre of wetlands cannot be created to change a ¼-acre loss of wetlands to a ½-acre loss associated with NWP 39 verification. However, ½-acre of created wetlands can be used to reduce the impacts of a ½-acre loss of wetlands to the minimum impact level in order to meet the minimal impact requirement associated with NWPs.

☐ (e) To be practicable, the mitigation must be available and capable of being done considering costs, existing technology, and logistics in light of the overall project purposes. Examples of mitigation that may be appropriate and practicable include, but are not limited to: reducing the size of the project; establishing and maintaining wetland or upland vegetated buffers to protect open waters such as streams; and replacing losses of aquatic resource functions and values by creating, restoring, enhancing, or preserving similar functions and values, preferably in the same watershed.

☐ (f) Compensatory mitigation plans for projects in or near streams or other open waters will normally include a requirement for the establishment, maintenance, and legal protection (e.g., easements, deed restrictions) of vegetated buffers to open waters. In many cases, vegetated buffers will be the only compensatory mitigation required. Vegetated buffers should consist of native species. The width of the vegetated buffers required will address documented water quality or aquatic habitat loss concerns. Normally, the vegetated buffer will be 25 to 50 feet wide on each side of the stream, but the District Engineers may require slightly wider vegetated buffers to address documented water quality or habitat loss concerns. Where both wetlands and open waters exist on the project site, the Corps will determine the appropriate compensatory mitigation (e.g., stream buffers or wetlands compensation) based on what is best for the aquatic environment on a watershed basis. In cases where vegetated buffers are determined to be the most appropriate form of compensatory mitigation, the District Engineer may waive or reduce the requirement to provide wetland compensatory mitigation for wetland impacts.

☐ (g) Compensatory mitigation proposals submitted with the “notification” may be either conceptual or detailed. If conceptual plans are approved under the verification, then the Corps will condition the verification to require detailed plans be submitted and approved by the Corps prior to construction of the authorized activity in waters of the US.

☐ (h) Permittees may propose the use of mitigation banks, in-lieu fee arrangements or separate activity-specific compensatory mitigation. In all cases that require compensatory mitigation, the mitigation provisions will specify the party responsible for accomplishing and/or complying with the mitigation plan.

☐ **20. Spawning Areas.** Activities, including structures and work in navigable waters of the US or discharges of dredged or fill material, in spawning areas during spawning seasons must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Activities that result in the physical destruction (e.g., excavate, fill, or smother downstream by substantial turbidity) of an important spawning area are not authorized.

☐ **21. Management of Water Flows.** To the maximum extent practicable, the activity must be designed to maintain preconstruction downstream flow conditions (e.g., location, capacity, and flow rates). Furthermore, the activity must not permanently restrict or impede the passage of normal or expected high flows (unless the primary purpose of the fill is to impound waters) and the structure or discharge of dredged or fill material must withstand expected high flows. The activity must, to the maximum extent practicable, provide for retaining excess flows from the site, provide for maintaining surface flow rates from the site similar to preconstruction conditions, and provide for not increasing water flows from the project site, relocating water, or redirecting water flow beyond preconstruction conditions. Stream channelizing will be reduced to the minimal amount necessary, and the activity must, to the maximum extent practicable, reduce adverse effects such as flooding or erosion downstream and upstream of the project site, unless the activity is part of a larger system designed to manage water flows. In most cases, it will not be a requirement to conduct detailed studies and monitoring of water flow.

This condition is only applicable to projects that have the potential to affect waterflows. While appropriate measures must be taken, it is not necessary to conduct detailed studies to identify such measures or require monitoring to ensure their effectiveness. Normally, the Corps will defer to state and local authorities regarding management of water flow.

☐ **22 Adverse Effects From Impoundments.** If the activity creates an impoundment of water, adverse effects to the aquatic system due to the acceleration of the passage of water, and/or the restricting its flow shall be minimized to the maximum extent practicable. This includes structures and work in navigable waters of the US, or discharges of dredged or fill material.

☐ **23. Waterfowl Breeding Areas.** Activities, including structures and work in navigable waters of the US or discharges of dredged or fill material, into breeding areas for migratory waterfowl must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable.

☐ **24. Removal of Temporary Fills.** Any temporary fills must be removed in their entirety and the affected areas returned to their preexisting elevation.

☐ **25. Designated Critical Resource Waters.** Critical resource waters include, NOAA-designated marine sanctuaries, National Estuarine Research Reserves, National Wild and Scenic Rivers, critical habitat for Federally listed threatened and endangered species, coral reefs, state natural heritage sites, and outstanding national resource waters or other waters officially designated by a state as having particular environmental or ecological significance and identified by the District Engineer after notice and opportunity for public comment. The District Engineer may also designate additional critical resource waters after notice and opportunity for comment.

☐ (a) Except as noted below, discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the US are not authorized by NWPs 7, 12, 14, 16, 17, 21, 29, 31, 35, 39, 40, 42, 43, and 44 for any activity within, or directly affecting, critical resource waters, including wetlands adjacent to such waters. Discharges of dredged or fill materials into waters of the US may be authorized by the above NWPs in National Wild and Scenic Rivers if the activity complies with General Condition 7. Further, such discharges may be authorized in designated critical habitat for Federally listed threatened or endangered species if the activity complies with General Condition 11 and the USFWS or the NMFS has concurred in a determination of compliance with this condition.

☐ (b) For NWPs 3, 8, 10, 13, 15, 18, 19, 22, 23, 25, 27, 28, 30, 33, 34, 36, 37, and 38, notification is required in accordance with General Condition 13, for any activity proposed in the designated critical resource waters including wetlands adjacent to those waters. The District Engineer may authorize activities under these NWPs only after it is determined that the impacts to the critical resource waters will be no more than minimal.

☐ **26 Fills Within 100-Year Floodplains.** For purposes of this General Condition, 100-year floodplains will be identified through the existing Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps or FEMA-approved local floodplain maps.

☐ (a) Discharges in Floodplain; Below Headwaters. Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the US within the mapped 100-year floodplain, below headwaters (i.e. five cfs), resulting in permanent above-grade fills, are not authorized by NWPs 39, 40, 42, 43, and 44.

☐ (b) Discharges in Floodway; Above Headwaters. Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the US within the FEMA or locally mapped floodway, resulting in permanent above-grade fills, are not authorized by NWPs 39, 40, 42, and 44.

☐ (c) The permittee must comply with any applicable FEMA-approved state or local floodplain management requirements.

☐ **27. Construction Period.** For activities that have not been verified by the Corps and the project was commenced or under contract to commence by the expiration date of the NWP (or modification or revocation date), the work must be completed within 12-months after such date (including any modification that affects the project).

☐ For activities that have been verified and the project was commenced or under contract to commence within the verification period, the work must be completed by the date determined by the Corps.

☐ For projects that have been verified by the Corps, an extension of a Corps approved completion date may be requested. This request must be submitted at least one month before the previously approved completion date.

#### **B. Further Information**

1. District Engineers have authority to determine if an activity complies with the terms and conditions of an NWP.
2. NWPs do not obviate the need to obtain other Federal, state, or local permits, approvals, or authorizations required by law.
3. NWPs do not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges.
4. NWPs do not authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.
5. NWPs do not authorize interference with any existing or proposed Federal project.

#### **C. Regional Conditions for Nationwide Permits – Sacramento District**

I. Regional Conditions to be applied across the entire Sacramento District:

☐ **1.** Nationwide Permits 14, 29, 39, 40, 41, 42, and 44 are withdrawn from used in histosols, including fens. For the use of all other nationwide permits in fens, project proponents are required to notify the Corps using the notification or PCN procedures of the nationwide permit program (General Condition 13). This will be a "Corps only" notification.

☐ **2.** For all activities using any existing and proposed nationwide permits, mitigation that is required by special condition must be completed before or concurrent with project construction. Where project mitigation involves the use of a mitigation bank or in-lieu fee, payment must be made to the bank or fee-in-lieu program before commencing construction of the permitted activity.

☐ **3.** For all nationwide permits requiring notification, except 27, the applicant must provide a written statement to the district engineer explaining how avoidance and minimization of losses of waters of the United States were achieved on the project site.

II. Regional conditions to be applied in California and Nevada.

☐ All existing and proposed nationwide permits are suspended in the Lake Tahoe basin in favor of using General Permit 16.

### III. Regional conditions to be applied in Utah

- ☐ For use of any nationwide permit with the following attributes, notification of the Corps of Engineers' Utah Regulatory Office, using the "Notification" procedures of the Nationwide Permit Program (General Condition 13), is required, except where certain nationwide permits are restricted and can not be used as indicated in each category. This will be a "Corps only" notification.
  - ☐ 1. All activities that will affect waters of the U.S. below the elevation 4217 feet msl adjacent to the Great Salt Lake and below 4500 feet msl adjacent to Utah Lake.
  - ☐ 2. Bank stabilization in a perennial stream that would affect more than 100 feet of stream length as measured from the upstream portion of the affected bank to the downstream section, narrow the cross-section of the stream, substantially reduce the riparian vegetation, or increase velocities.
  - ☐ 3. All activities that will affect springs. A spring is an aquatic feature caused by ground water being discharged to the surface, creating wetland and/or stream characteristics. Nationwide Permits 14, 16, 18, 29, 33, 36, 40, 42, 43, and 44 can not be used in spring areas.

## MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR ACCEPTANCE OF PRELIMINARY WETLANDS DELINEATIONS

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November 30, 2001

The Regulatory Branch of the Sacramento District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), receives numerous requests to perform wetland delineations for potential applicants for permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Due to limited staff and resources, the response time can be several months or longer. To expedite this process, the Corps encourages applicants to use consultants to conduct preliminary wetlands delineations, especially for large and/or complex areas. Preliminary delineations may then be submitted to the Corps for review and verification.

While accurate delineations by qualified individuals have resulted in a quicker review and response from the Corps, substandard or inaccurate delineations have resulted in unnecessary time delays for applicants. These delays are due to insufficient, incomplete, or conflicting data, which prevent the Corps from verifying the proposed wetland boundaries. Such delineations must be returned by the Corps to the applicant or consultant for revision.

To improve the quality of and consistency of delineations, the Corps has developed **minimum standards necessary for accepting a delineation for verification of the jurisdictional boundaries**. Any submittal that does not meet these requirements will be returned to the applicant or consultant. All deficiencies must be corrected by the applicant or a consultant prior to re-submittal.

### MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

The preliminary wetlands delineation report shall include:

- ☐ A statement that the delineation has been conducted in accordance with the 1987 "Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual"
- ☐ A narrative describing the wetlands.
- ☐ Justification for the wetlands boundaries.
- ☐ The total acreage of the project site.
- ☐ Existing field conditions such as season and flood/drought conditions.
- ☐ A discussion of the hydrology source (subsurface or surface, including potential irrigation influence) and drainage gradients.
- ☐ A site location map, preferably outlined on a 7.5 minute USGS quadrangle, along with any other pertinent maps of the site. The map must provide the name of the USGS quadrangle, Section, Township, Range, and UTM or latitude and longitude.
- ☐ Directions to the site.
- ☐ Contract information for the applicant(s) and property owner(s).
- ☐ A discussion of plant communities and habitat types present on the site and a list of the scientific name, common name(s), and indicator status of all plants.
- ☐ Soil descriptions, soil map(s), and a list of hydric soils or soils with hydric inclusions on the site.
- ☐ Any observed and/or documented examples of an interstate or foreign commerce connection.  
Examples include, but are not limited to:
  - Recreational or other use by interstate or foreign travelers.
  - Sale of fish or shellfish in interstate or foreign commerce.
  - Use by industries, including agriculture, operating in interstate or foreign commerce.

## MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR ACCEPTANCE OF PRELIMINARY WETLANDS DELINEATIONS

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- ☐ A delineation map at an appropriate scale (for most projects, a scale of one inch to 100 or 200 feet). The map should not exceed one inch to 400 feet unless there are extenuating circumstances.  
Note: map scales must be accurate and in round numbers, any maps using a photographic base must be corrected for distortions, and any overlays must be of identical scale<sup>7</sup>. The map must include:
  - ☐ The boundary of the entire project area.
  - ☐ All features which meet the criteria for wetlands or other waters of the United States.
  - ☐ Color or thatched coding of the different wetlands coding of different wetland types present.
  - ☐ Topography.
  - ☐ Clearly and accurately identified data point locations and the location and identification number of surveyed or GPS established flags, stakes, or wetland boundaries.
  - ☐ All waters of the U.S., including but not limited to, instate waters, tributaries, wetlands, and all other waters such as intrastate lakes, rivers, streams, and mudflats as described in 33 CFR 328.3, must be shown on the delineation map. Those features which meet wetlands criteria or are potential waters of the U.S., but may be isolated and lacking an interstate or foreign commerce connection or are non-jurisdictional for other reasons must still be shown on the map. Any justification for the Corps to make a non-jurisdictional determination should be provided in the report.
  - ☐ Standard mapping conventions (e.g. north arrow, location map, etc.) and other identifying features which facilitate the correlation of map locations with ground features (e.g., buildings, fence lines, roads, right-of-ways, trees, streams, topographic features, etc.)
  - ☐ A reference block which identifies the project, the delineators, surveyors, date of initial preparation and date(s) of any revision.
  - ☐ Individual numbers or other designations for each water feature identified.
  - ☐ A table displaying the respective size (in acres) of each water and cumulative acreage of each type of water.
- ☐ Data sheets completely and appropriately filled out. Data forms may be modified from the Corps' standard version, but they must present all essential information necessary to make a wetlands/nonwetlands determination.
- ☐ At least one set of paired points documented for each feature or complex. Additional data forms may be necessary depending on various factors including the size and shape of the wetlands on the site, difficulty in identifying a precise wetlands/uplands boundary, and the width of any transition zones.
- ☐ Additionally, before the Corps can complete its verification of the delineation, wetland boundaries must be marked with flags or stakes. Flags or stakes must be individually numbered and surveyed by traditional methods or by GPS equipment accurate to less than one meter. The survey data must specify the geographic coordinate system used in referencing the data, including projection and datum (e.g., Latitude-Longitude: NAD27 or UTM – Zone 10; NAD83). Data should be provided in a digital geographic information system (GIS) format to expedite review, with ESRI Shapefiles being the preferred format. The Corps also strongly recommends that property boundaries be flagged or staked and surveyed.
- ☐ Additional information often can expedite a wetland verification. Particularly helpful data includes topographic maps, aerial and ground photographs, and related reports. Expanded narrative reports may also clarify the investigation. However, the Corps emphasizes that these reports should be succinct with only the relevant information presented. Irrelevant, verbose, or perfunctory information will only delay the Corps' evaluation.

**MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR ACCEPTANCE OF PRELIMINARY  
WETLANDS DELINEATIONS**

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IMPORTANT SOURCES OF INFORMATION

CORPS OF ENGINEERS WETLANDS DELINEATION MANUAL (1987 VERSION)  
NATIONAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION SERVICE (NTIS)  
ATTN ORDER DEPT SPRINGFIELD VA 22161  
703-487-4650 FAX 703-321-8547

WETLANDS PLANTS LIST (Out of print lists available from NTIS above)  
US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
PUBLICATIONS UNIT  
1849 C STREET NW  
MAIL STOP 130 – WEBB BUILDING  
WASHINGTON DC 20240

HYDRIC SOILS OF THE UNITED STATES (Obtain local lists from county or state NRCS offices)  
NATIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE FOR HYDRIC SOILS  
NATIONAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE  
PO BOX 2890  
WASHINGTON DC 20013

MAPPING PRODUCTS AND DIGITAL DATA (National Wetlands Inventory and USGS Topographic Maps)  
USGS EARTH SCIENCE INFORMATION CENTER 9ESIC)  
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
507 NATIONAL CENTER  
RESTON VA 22092  
1-800-USA-MAPS  
(703) 648-6045

FIELD INDICATORS OF HYDRIC SOILS IN THE UNITED STATES, VERSION 4.0 (March 1998)  
Russell F. Pringle  
NRCS, WSI, LSU  
104 STURGIS HALL  
BATON ROUGE, LA 70803-2110

Aerial Photography – National Sources of Photos (additional from ESIC above)	
ASCS AERIAL PHOTO FIELD OFFICE	USGS EROS DATA CENTER
PO BOX 30010	SIOUX FALLS SD 57198
SALT LAKE CITY UT 84130	(605) 594-6151
(801) 524-5856	

National List of Scientific Plant Names	Keys to Soil Taxonomy (1982 ed.)
USDA SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE	POCAHONTAS PRESS
OFFICE OF ECOLOGICAL SCIENCES	832 HUTCHINSON DRIVE
PO BOX 2890	PO DRAWER F
WASHINGTON DC 20013	BLACKSBURG VA 24063
(202) 447-25887	(703) 951-0467

Publication on “Redoximorphic Features for Identifying Aquatic Conditions”  
Technical Bulletin 3 01 of the North Carolina Agricultural Research Service (1992)  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COMMUNICATIONS  
PO BOX 7603 NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY  
RALEIGH NC 27695-7603

**Response A-1** This comment provides guidelines about Clean Water Act Section 404 compliance and does not raise significant environmental points that would affect the adequacy of the EIR. Based on site assessments conducted at the three restoration sites (Hubbell et al. 1999, Hubbell et al. 2003a, and Hubbell et al. 2003b), project activities would not result in the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States because there are no waters of the United States present in areas that would be disturbed during restoration activities. See the discussion under, “Sensitive Habitats,” on page 4.4-20 of Section 4.4, “Biological Resources.” See also the discussion under Impact 4.4-a, “Change in Habitat Conditions,” for additional information on sensitive habitats, including waters of the United States.